**Qualifying marks for assessment promotion in CSIR**

3476. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the qualifying marks fixed for assessment promotion of scientists belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, who faced assessment interviews in CSIR during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether relaxation in qualifying marks for assessment of above scientists for the period 1995- 2000 were withdrawn by CSIR;

(c) if so,the reasons for the withdrawal;

(d) whether relaxation in qualifying marks were applicable to assessment periods 1996-2001; and

(e) whether scientists of above communities working in the institute can be members of assessment committee for scientists of the same institute, as representative of above communities?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (d) The qualifying marks for assessment promotion of Scientists belonging to Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) categories with the maximum relaxation admissible under the rules are 50% for Scientists Group IV (1) and (2); 60% for Group IV (3) and 65% of Group IV (4) to (7). The relaxation in qualifying marks for assessment promotion of the CSIR Scientists belonging to SC/ST categories was withdrawn w.e.f. 08.5.1998 in pursuance of Government of India, DoPT O.M. No. 36012/23/96-Estt (Res.) dated 22.7.1997. The relaxation has been restored *w.e.f.* 03.10.2000 following the issuance of the Government of India, DoPT O.M. No. 36012/23/96-Estt(Res)-Vol. II dated 03.10.2000. Thus, prior to 08.05.1998 and w.e.f. 03.10.2000 the relaxation in qualifying marks for assessment has been available to the CSIR Scientists belonging to SC/ST categories.

(e) Yes Sir.

**Concession on import duty for corex technology**

3477. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have announced certain concessions on import duty for COREX technology and not for other steel plants, which are running on conventional design of blast furnace, using METCOKE for producing steel;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for providing these concessions to COREX technology only and not to other steel plants; and

(c) whether Government would consider providing these concessions to other conventional steel plants also and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In the Budget 2002-03 the customs duty on metallurgical coke has been reduced from 15% to 5% for steel units using COREX technology. This is in line with the similar concession available to other conventional steel plants using the blast furnace route.

(c) The question does not arise as the concession is already available to other conventional steel plants.

**SAIL's Losses**

3478. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Steel Authority of India Limited has plunged into loss of Rs. 585.3 crores; and

(b) if so, what is the impact of the financial package given to SAIL by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) incurred a loss of Rs. 585 crores during the third quarter of 2001-02.

(b) The financial package approved by the Government in February, 2000 included waiver of Steel Development Fund (SDF) loan of Rs. 5073 crores and loan of Rs. 381 crores from the Government of India. SAIL was able to reduce its losses by Rs. 756.80 crores in 1999-2000 consequent to the adjustment made on account of financial restructuring.

**Import of ship-breaking scrap**

3479. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the increasing import of ship-breaking scrap into the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the flow of the ship-breaking scrap has an adverse impact on the steel industries; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto?